

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-21 were pending. With this amendment, claims 1-4, 9, 11-13, 15, 17, 19 and 25 have been amended, and new claims 26-31 have also been presented.

I. Amendments to Claims 1-4, 9, 11-13, 15, 17, 19 and 25

Claims 1-3 and 25 have been amended to substitute "substance" for "retinal stimulator" to clarify the claim language and bring it in conformance with the terminology used in the specification (see, for example, paragraphs 9-10 and 24-27 of the original specification). Claims 4, 11 and 12 have been amended to indicate that the substance may be at least one array. Support for this may be found, for example, at paragraph 26 of the original specification. Claims 9 and 15 have been amended to substantially their originally filed state by reestablishing that retinal cells are stimulated by the substance provided between the internal limiting membrane and the retina. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 9 rather than claim 22. The remaining amendments to the claims relate to grammatical clarifications and do not narrow the scope of any of the claims. Applicant submits that these amended claims are at least as broad as the original claims and that the amendments are fully supported in the specification as identified above. Consideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully solicited.

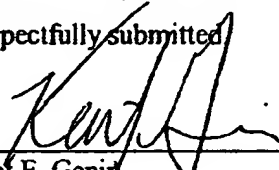
II. New Claims 26-31

New claims 26-28 relate to a method for therapeutic or preventive treatment of a retina where a connectionless array is provided between the internal limiting membrane and the retina to stimulate retinal cells. Claim 26 is an independent claim and claims 27-28 depend from claim 26. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added and that support for these claims may be found, for example, in paragraph 26 of the originally filed specification. New claims 29-31 depend from independent claim 1 and recite features where the substance is a connectionless array.

III. Conclusion

With the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-31 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted



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